MARVEL

DEATH SPIRAL

PART 2 OF 9

23

LGY#987

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

KELLY
McGUINNESS
FARMER
MENYZ

RATED T

MARVEL COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS...

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MONTHS AGO, **SPIDER-MAN** WAS TOLD TO "GET STRONGER" AND WAS PUNCHED INTO SPACE BY **HELLGATE**. WITH SOME STRANGE HELP, PETER FOUND HIS WAY BACK HOME. WHILE HE WAS GONE, NORMAN OSBORN HELPED THE CITY AS SPIDER-MAN, BUT PETER'S CLONE, **BEN REILLY**, LIVED AS PETER PARKER AND DAMAGED JUST ABOUT EVERY RELATIONSHIP PETER HAS. HE IGNORED **AUNT MAY** FOR MONTHS, AND WHEN **MARY JANE WATSON** REVEALED HER NEW IDENTITY AS **VENOM** TO WHO SHE THOUGHT WAS PETER, HE DISMISSED HER CALLOUSLY.

BEN ALSO IGNORED CALLS FROM **EDDIE BROCK**, AND WHEN PETER RETURNED HOME AND CHECKED HIS VOICEMAIL HE RECEIVED HORRIFIC NEWS: **CARNAGE** KNOWS SPIDER-MAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!

SPIDER-MAN A.K.A. PETER PARKER

AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN/VENOM
DEATH SPIRAL

PART 2 OF 9

VENOM A.K.A. MARY JANE WATSON

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SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY **STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO**

CARNAGE A.K.A. EDDIE BROCK

WHILE I WAS AWAY, I THOUGHT ABOUT HOME A LOT...

...I MEAN, WHEN I WASN'T ACTIVELY TRYING TO ***NOT THINK*** ABOUT HOME.

AT FIRST, IT WAS ALL ***FEAR*** ALL THE TIME. WAS ***AUNT MAY*** ALL RIGHT? WERE MY ***FRIENDS*** OKAY? WHO WAS LOOKING AFTER THE ***NEIGHBORHOOD***?

PERPETUAL ***PANIC*** ABOUT PEOPLE HUNDREDS OF LIGHT-YEARS AWAY TAKES UP A LOT OF ENERGY, SO EVENTUALLY, I GOT INTO THE HABIT OF IMAGINING ***BEST-CASE*** SCENARIOS INSTEAD.

IN MY FAVORITE ONE, MAY HIT THE POWERBALL AND BOUGHT A MANSION FOR ME AND ALL OF MY ALIEN PALS TO LIVE IN NEXT DOOR TO HER CHARITY FOUNDATION... AND MAYBE THERE WAS A ***SPIDER-BUGGY*** INVOLVED.

THE TECHNICAL TERM IS "***DENIAL***," I THINK, BUT THE BRAIN WANTS WHAT IT WANTS.

I WANTED THE REALITY THAT WAS ***TAKEN*** FROM ME TO BE ***BETTER*** THAN HOW I LEFT IT.

BUT FOR ALL THE TERRORS I WAS TRYING TO AVOID WORRYING ABOUT, ***THIS ONE*** WASN'T IN THE CARDS...

CARNAGE

EDDIE BROCK'S MESSAGE IS WEEKS OLD NOW, AND CARNAGE HASN'T MADE A MOVE...*YET.*

I NEED SOME ANSWERS AND EDDIE IS INCOMMUNICADO, AND IT'S KIND OF ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT.

HMM. YEAH. THAT'S COOL.

"COOL"? THAT YOUR *AUNT BRENDA* DIED?

SHE WASN'T A VERY NICE PERSON, BUT *STILL.*

I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR *UNIQUE* SENSE OF HUMOR, *PETER.*

NO, SORRY, I MEANT "*CRUEL.*" LIKE, THIS IS A "CRUEL WORLD" SOMETIMES. NOT "COOL."

OF COURSE. IF *I* HAD A NICKEL FOR EVERY TIME I *MISSPOKE*...

I'D HAVE *ZERO* NICKELS.

HA! NOT TWO HOURS AGO, YOU CALLED ME "*MARJORIE.*"

I AM CERTAIN THAT I DID NOT--

DON'T EVEN TRY. YOU'RE NOT THAT SLICK, *RIC.*

GUESS WE'VE ALL LOST OUR ATTENTION SPAN ONLINE...*heh*... =AHEM=

SO, *THIS* IS A BIG STEP... *MOVING IN* TOGETHER?

MY PLACE IS CLOSER TO THE *F.E.A.S.T. CENTER* AND ALL THAT MANHATTAN HAS TO OFFER.

ALSO, MAY CAN RENT *HER* PLACE FOR EXTRA INCOME AND--

ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK OUT A SPREADSHEET OR JUST ADMIT THAT WE ENJOY EACH OTHER'S *COMPANY?*

HEH. AND *THAT.*

WE'RE BOTH READY FOR A *RELATIONSHIP*...AND NOT GETTING ANY *YOUNGER.*

YOU LOOK IT, PRETTY LADY.

YES, WELL...THAT'S ALL THE *WHOOPIE.*

=KOFF= =KAFF!=

GIVES ME A *YOUTHFUL GLOW.*

=KOFFFFF!=

ARE YOU BLUSHING OR *CHOKING--?* OW. OH...

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR *TORTURING* YOUR NEPHEW. TIME FOR PAIN MEDS?

MAYBE. AND THE *ICE PACK?* NO RUSH.

SHE'S GOT HER GAME FACE ON, BUT I KNOW THAT SHOULDER IS KILLING HER.

MY FAULT, OF COURSE. I WASN'T HERE WHEN SHE NEEDED ME, AND--

I'M *SORRY.* THAT I WASN'T HERE--

THAT YOU GOT *HURT.*

ARE WE TALKING ABOUT MY *SHOULDER?*

DURING THE **ATTACK OF THE GOBLIN SLAYERS!** --NOTABLE NICK

OR THE *REST OF IT?*

BOTH...?

YEAH, BOTH.

GOOD.

I'M SORRY IN ADVANCE FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY, BUT... THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN *AGONY.*

FRANKLY, THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SITTING HERE EATING *CHEESE AND CRACKERS* ALMOST MAKES IT WORSE.

LIKE WE'RE PRETENDING EVERYTHING IS *NORMAL.*

WHAT YOU DID *ISN'T* NORMAL.

I KNOW. I'M--

LET ME *FINISH...* I DON'T KNOW THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO SAY THIS AGAIN.

I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ON THIS PLANET.

CUTTING ME OUT OF YOUR LIFE... HURT ME TO THE MARROW.

RICARDO THINKS THAT I AM MENTALLY UNWELL TO WELCOME YOU BACK INTO MY LIFE WITHOUT QUESTION.

PART OF ME CAN'T BLAME HIM.

BUT HE DIDN'T RAISE YOU. HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU--YET.

I DO.

AND AFTER MANY, MANY LATE NIGHTS TURNING IT OVER IN MY HEAD...

...THE ONLY REASON I COULD COME UP WITH-- WHY I CAN FORGIVE YOU FOR DOING WHAT YOU DID...

...WAS THAT YOU WERE SUFFERING THROUGH SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

I WANT TO SCREAM. TELL HER EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING. SPIDER-MAN. HELLGATE. CHASM... EVERYTHING.

JUST SO SHE UNDERSTANDS.

I LOST EVERYTHING I LOVE BECAUSE I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.

I WANT TO PROMISE IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN--

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED... NOT TODAY.

BUT I DO NEED TO KNOW ONE THING.

JUST TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT IT'S *OVER.*

--BUT I *WON'T.*

INSTEAD, I'LL MAKE A ***CLUMSY*** EXIT WITH A ***CRAP*** EXCUSE AND PRAY TO GOD THAT SHE FORGIVES ME. ***AGAIN.***

BECAUSE I NEED TO PROTECT HER THIS TIME, NO MATTER WHAT...

...AND ***VENOM*** IS THE KEY TO DOING THAT.

FORGIVE THE IMPROMPTU *INTERVIEW*, BUT I WANT TO INTERNALIZE THIS.

FROM "*LETHAL PROTECTOR*" TO "*HARASSER* OF ORDINARY CITIZENS"?

DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT!

"*LADY OCTOPUS*" DENOTES AN *EXTRAORDINARY* CITIZEN OF TASTE AND REFINEMENT.

GOT THAT RIGHT!

OH, SORRY, I MEANT "*CRIMINAL*," NOT "*CITIZEN*."

I'M NOT MUCH OF A TECH-HEAD, BUT...

...JACKING INTO HIGH-SPEED TERMINALS FOR ACCESS TO THE STOCK MARKET IS, LIKE, PRETTY *ADVANCED* STUFF, RIGHT?

TOMBSTONE TRYING TO SHORE UP HIS 403B?

YOU'RE *CLEVER* NOW TOO. CONGRATULATIONS.

I LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU WERE *DUMB AND DROOLING.*

ON THIS EPISODE OF *TENTACLE ISLAND*--

--WILL LADY OCTOPUS FINALLY FIND HER *LOVE CONNECTION?*

ARM IN ARM IN ARM IN ARM, ET CETERA, ET CETERA, WITH *TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME?*

NOT GONNA LIE. I CAN SEE IT.

EEW.

I DON'T WRITE THE RULES OF *L'AMOUR!*

HELLO, *SPIDER-MAN.*

GREAT TO SEE YOU TOO, VENOM, AND, YES, I HAVE LOST WEIGHT, THANKS FOR NOTICING!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN OUR WAY--

--LESS JOKING, MORE PROTECTING!

AYE AYE, CAPTAIN. SO, YOU LOOK GOOD. I LIKE THE *GOLD*--

DO. NOT.

SWEET. I'M NOT FEELING BANTERY ANYWAY. IT'S ALREADY BEEN A DAY.

BUT WHEN THIS IS OVER, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR *MESSAGE*--

I HAVE A *NEW* MESSAGE FOR YOU--

WAIT, VENOM--!

SHE'S-- *NNNGH*-- NOT ALONE...

SOUND. LOW FREQUENCY BUT *POWERFUL* ENOUGH TO KICK MY *GUTS* INTO MY *THROAT.*

THE BOSS SAID YOU NEEDED *BACKUP.*

DID HE SAY ANYTHING *ELSE?*

YOU FAILED *MISERABLY* AND WILL BE ON *OVERTIME* FOR A WHILE.

FOR A MAN WHO FILES HIS TEETH TO *POINTS,* TOMBSTONE IS A *SURPRISINGLY REASONABLE* BOSS.

HAS TO BE *A HUNDRED TIMES* WORSE FOR THE SYMBIOTE.

NAH. THE SONIC SHIELD, *THAT'S* NEW.

SONICS REALLY SUCK. IDEAS?

HARDLY... YOU?

ONE.

=URP= THE *BROWN-NOISE* TRICK IS NEW, SHOCKY...

FOCUSED UPGRADING *DEFENSE* AFTER YOU TRIED TO PUT ME IN THE *HOSPITAL.*

HOSPITAL? THAT...DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOMETHING I WOULD DO.

BUT YOU *DID.* AND IT'S PAYBACK TIME.

THE FACT THAT I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO THE *SHOCKER* FOR SOMETHING *NORMAN OSBORN* DID WHILE DRESSED *AS ME* IS TOO MUCH TO PROCESS.

KNOCK, KNOCK!

WHOULFF!

HAHA! THE PAYBACK IS OURS!

MY TURN TO RESCUE A CO-WORKER.

WAIT! I WANNA *GET* THAT SON OF A--

HERMAN, PLEASE. THIS IS ALREADY A *MESS*. LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

WHEN WE FINISH THIS, *EDDIE, DO* **NOT** TAKE OFF.

WE HAVE TO--

--TALK--

HURK!

OOOR WE CAN TALK *NOW* WHILE THE BAD GUYS GET AWAY.

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

STOP CALLING US EDDIE!

EH--

EM--

MJ?

B-BUT... *EDDIE BROCK* IS VENOM.

ARE YOU #$%& *SERIOUS* RIGHT NOW?

WE CAN GO *BACK* TO EATING BRAINS--EVEN *CRACKED* ONES!

≥Hfff≤ IS THIS DRUGS? HAVE I BEEN DRUGGED? ≥Pffff≤

≥Hffff≤ NO. MAYBE I'M DEAD...? DYING? ≥Pfff≤

WHAT IS HE DOING?

TESTING OUT A NEW "PARKER AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUE."

I'M SORRY. ≥Hffff≤ SORRY... ≥Pfff≤

I'M NOT DOING THE BREATHING RIGHT... ≥Hffff≤

THIS IS REAL? LIKE EARTH-616 REAL...?

I DON'T REMEMBER HIM BREATHING LIKE THAT WHEN HE WAS RUDE TO US.

YOU SAID WE "DESERVED EACH OTHER" AND SLAMMED A DOOR ON US.

MARY JANE WATSON IS VENOM?

HOLY CRAP... YOU ARE #$%& SERIOUS.

HE'S DEFINITELY #!%& SERIOUS.

A MILLION PERCENT SERIOUS.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S EDDIE?

OKAY... LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE TOP.

THE BRONX ZOO. BUTTERFLY ENCLOSURE.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE MY *PHONE* IS?

YOU MEAN THE ONLY ITEM YOU *OWN* THAT IS NEVER OUT OF YOUR REACH?

I'M A LITTLE DISTRACTED.

YOU'RE A *MESS*, EDDIE.

WE SHOULD GRAB A BITE. ISN'T THE BRONX A CRIME-RIDDEN MURDERER'S PARADISE?

THAT'S *STATEN ISLAND.* NOW *SHUT UP* AND LOOK FOR CLUES.

LADY WHO WORKED HERE WOUND UP ON THE *INSIDE* OF A *PYTHON.* BUT THERE WAS A SPIRAL MARK--

TORMENT FED HER TO A *SNAKE?! OUTSTANDING!*

IF WE CAN CRACK WHY HE CHOOSES HIS *VICS*, MAYBE WE GET SOME INSIGHT INTO WHO'S *NEXT.*

LOOK AT YOU, APPLYING LOGIC TO THE ILLOGICAL MUSINGS OF A MADMAN...AS IF THEY BELONG TO ONE HAPPY MANSON *FAMILY.*

WHY DID YOU SAY "FAMILY" LIKE THAT?

DRAMATIC EFFECT.

...

YOU KNOW SOMETHING.

I KNOW THAT IF WE DON'T *KILL SOMETHING SOON,* WE'RE GONNA PASS OUT...

AND WHEN YOU PASS OUT, YOU *REALLY* PASS OUT.

DID *YOU* STEAL MY PHONE?

FFFFFFFFFT

HOW DID YOU DO THAT? YOU...

YOU CAN'T MOVE UNLESS I *LET* YOU MOVE...?

TOTALLY. THEM'S THE RULES AND I AM A MODEL *RULE FOLLOWER!*

BUT YOUR *COLD-TURKEY NO-KILLING PROGRAM* LEAVES YOU PRETTY *SHAKY*... "PARTNER."

WE'D BETTER FIND THE *BIG BAD KILLER MAN* SOON... OR WHO *KNOWS* WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN?

CHOP, CHOP, MR. BROCK.

NOT THE *BEST* DAY, NOT THE *WORST*, TOMBSTONE.

LADY OCK JUST HAD SOME *BAD LUCK.* I'M GLAD IT *WORKED OUT*, SIR--

HEH. ALONZO. THANK YOU, THAT'S *KIND* OF YOU.

AND THANKS FOR TAKING A CHANCE ON ME--*AGAIN.* LATER.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT *TOMBSTONE* WOULD BE THE *BEST BOSS* I EVER HAD...?

WILD.

FFFFFFFFFF

AAAAGH!

HERMAN SCHULTZ...

SON OF MARRIANNE SINEK AND HENRIK SCHULTZ. NO SIBLINGS. BUT MOM HAD A SISTER. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

MARRIED A CARRO, AND THEIR DAUGHTER MARRIED A WATSON.

ISN'T THAT *LUCKY?*

WHO ARE YOU?! WHO THE #$%& ARE YOU?!

SHHHHH.

WHU--?

AAAAAAGH!

YOU MAY NOT REALIZE THIS, BUT...

...YOU'RE VERY LOUD.

SPACE.

YOU WERE PUNCHED INTO *LITERAL SPACE.*

PUNCHED THROUGH A *"GATE"* INTO SPACE, TECHNICALLY...

YOU *DIED*--

AND YOUR *CLONE* TOOK YOUR PLACE AS PETER PARKER--?

AND *NORMAN* WAS SPIDER-MAN, AND ALMOST EVERYONE I KNOW THINKS I *GHOSTED* THEM OR WENT *INSANE*, YES, BUT THAT'S NOT THE HEADLINE--

--YOU DIED.

WE GOT *BETTER.*

ALSO, SHE BROKE UP WITH *PAUL RABIN.* THIS MADE *SOME* PEOPLE VERY HAPPY.

ARE *YOU* SOME PEOPLE?

YOU BONDED WITH THE SYMBIOTE *MONTHS* BEFORE I LEFT...

WHY DIDN'T YOU *TELL ME?*

BECAUSE I KNEW THAT SOMEHOW, YOU'D MAKE IT ABOUT *YOU*...WHEN I---

WE CHOSE THIS.

BUT--

WE DIDN'T *NEED* YOU TO *SAVE* US. WE SAVED OURSELVES.

BUT WE DID WANT TIME TO *PROCESS*... ALONE.

JUST LIKE *YOU'VE* DONE SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU.

BUT MAYBE THAT'S *NOT* THE BEST CALL SOMETIMES. LIKE SPECIFICALLY *THIS TIME.*

AND I TOO MAKE PHYSICAL CONTACT TO SHOW I *CARE.*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE *INSIDE* OF ME FOR EVEN *MORE* COMFORT?

NEVER NOT GONNA BE *AWKWARD.*

YOU'RE NOT *ALONE*, PETER. GETTING BACK TO LIFE OR *MENDING FENCES* OR WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING THROUGH...*WE'RE* PART OF IT NOW.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW *TRUE* THAT IS.

WHEN I WAS *GONE*, EDDIE BROCK TRIED TO CONTACT ME... HE...

HE LEFT A *MESSAGE.*

WHY DID A *CHILL* JUST RUN DOWN MY SPINE?

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SAY IT *OUT LOUD.*

WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE?

"CARNAGE... KNOWS. HE KNOWS I'M *SPIDER-MAN.*

"AND HE'S GOING TO *COME FOR ME.*

"NO ONE I KNOW IS SAFE... *NO ONE.*"

CARNAGE REVEALED

POLICE

2

1

3

TO BE CONTINUED IN VENOM #255!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

ASSISTANT EDITOR: **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: **TOM GRONEMAN**
EDITOR: **NICK LOWE**

WOEFUL WEB-HEADS!

Herman Schultz was "born" almost sixty years ago in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #46 thanks to JOHN ROMITA SR. and STAN LEE. He's had a checkered (quilted) past through the last sixty years, but certainly he deserved better than to be massacred by a murderer, right? Sadly, "deserve" doesn't mean much in this world, does it? Next week, in VENOM #255, we will honor Herman Schultz, but tragedy's foot stays heavy on the gas pedal, and you'll get your first full confrontation between Spider-Man, Venom, and Carnage. Did I just say "first"? I've said enough. What do YOU say?

Hello!

I'm 28, and I've been a huge Spider-Man fan since the first Raimi film.

I dabbled a bit growing up, but I didn't get INTO comics at all until right before Covid, and even then, I started with ASM #1.

I recently got the itch to dive into the world of Marvel again and took advantage of the Marvel Unlimited Black Friday special. As of now, I've continued the first run of ASM (about to start issue #29), and I started this current run of ASM.

What inspired me to actually want to write this letter was issue #7. Hellgate is incredible. The art and writing in this run are incredible. I'm hooked and will gladly stay on this ASM ride for as many as you'll give me!

Nick
Omaha, NE

Always great to hear from a fellow Nick! We're so glad that you're on board and loving Marvel Unlimited. We love our Unlimited friends! Hope you like where we take the Hellgate saga next, Nebraska Nick!

Dear Spidey-Office,

What a round two! It gave me *Empire Strikes Back* vibes. Seeing Peter so resolute and ready to stand up to Hellgate and not just stand up to him but try to reason with him and approach from a place of understanding? So good. Interesting that this new power booster hasn't been used yet and is being kept by Peter. I honestly thought he was gonna use it on Hellgate and that the side effects of the serum would cripple and weaken Hellgate. Now it brings the tension of who's going to use the serum? Will Peter use it and risk losing himself? Will someone like Norman, Ben, or Brian use it if Peter accidentally makes it accessible??? Is Hellgate going to chase Peter to Earth while Norman and the Spiders are dealing with all these Goblin-Slayers??? That'd be a hell of a collision course! And to think that "Death Spiral" is gonna come right after all this! How exciting! This new run has seriously been something special, and I love Kelly's down-to-earth method of voicing his characters. The themes the book chooses to explore and seeing Peter's morals crystallize here is truly something special and a great follow-up to his personal arc from the previous runs. Can't wait to see what's in store!

Regards,

Gracious Goodwin
Nevada

Goodness, Gracious, it's great to hear from you! This book has certainly felt like the best kind of freight train of emotional lightning. We hope you've liked the last few issues and hope that you are the right kind of devastated about "Death Spiral"!

Hi Spider-Office!

I've been reading on and off since the original ASM #209 (Kraven the Hunter!) and want to rave how even as an "old man who has seen it all," I still find the main Spider-Title ever-surprising and ever-engaging. Beginner's Tip: Start reading at the current issue and roll with it. NEVER TRY TO FIGURE OUT PAST LORE. IT'S MEANT TO BE READ AS IT UNFOLDS!

While I admit that Silk is nowadays my favorite Spider-Verse character, you always manage to keep ASM engaging (I read it via Marvel Unlimited)--I admittedly was burned a few years back when ASM branched into one or more of the "point-one" side-series (plus other tie-ins) and ASM felt "too expensive" to keep up with "real-time."

And I want to repeat how impressed I am that you (currently Joe Kelly, but I bet it takes a family!) manage to keep ASM engaging and "new." I mean, this series has run for...63 YEARS!!!! (Older than me, folks!!!) Ignore the continuity tyrants who explode over occasional repetition or retconned details. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is "amazing" as an artistic endeavor! Though yeah, in a perfect world without "brand identity," Peter would've grown old and retired, and the title would be more like a "true soap opera," but at least you get to address interesting ideas (like Peter's aging) through parallel universes (the Spider-Verse).

Anyway, keep on with the storytelling (and art that makes it shine)!

Tim H.
Colorado Springs, CO

Good to hear from you, Tim! Your letter is so refreshing! Love hearing about fans who've been around for a long time and which of our current stories drive them the most! Thanks for reading, Tim, and thank you for reading, EVERYONE! Come back next week for VENOM #255, where AL EWING, CARLOS GÓMEZ, FRANK D'ARMATA, and CLAYTON COWLES take this story up a gear and to the next level. And then come back the week after, when CHARLES SOULE steps up to the typewriter with JESÚS SAIZ and MATT HOLLINGSWORTH and JOLTIN' JOE CARAMAGNA (and JOE KELLY, of course) for part 4 of "Death Spiral" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #24!

Keep Thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
Astoria, NY

This comic appeared in France, summer 1986. I was 12. My mom and I were waiting at the station for the train that'd bring us to the Atlantic Coast for a holiday. My mom told me to go to the newsagent's and pick up a magazine. I picked a French mag with the French translation of ASM #257. I knew who Spider-Man was--had the Mattel Spidey toy when I was little--but never read his adventures on paper. The last page will always remain to me the biggest ASM cliffhanger ever: Mary Jane knew Peter Parker was "L'Homme-Araignée"! From this moment on, I never missed a single issue. Bought the ASM issues in English later. Proud to say the DeFalco/Frenz era was one of the best runs. Vivement le numéro 1000!

Joss Wierzbicki
France

Email us at **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** and mark your messages **"Okay to Print"** for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

WATCH OUT, WEB-HEADS!

DEATH SPIRAL is in full terrifying swing this month and next! March and April issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and VENOM are fully devoted to this story, and both books are jam-packed with twists, turns, surprises, revelations, and TORMENT! Who is Torment, you ask? Torment is the name of the scariest serial killer in the Marvel Universe—at least since Eddie Brock stopped Carnage from killing to his red-symbiote heart's content. Once Carnage learned of Torment, Carnage knocked down the first domino in the elaborate domino setup that is DEATH SPIRAL. Spider-Man and Venom aren't safe, and neither are ANY OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. Elderly aunts are in more danger than usual until the end of April! DEATH SPIRAL's stakes are high and so is the tension, so take your heart medication (if you take such meds, and if not, check with your doctor if you SHOULD get some) and strap in!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM
DEATH SPIRAL

THMP-LIST

- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #8
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23
- ❑ BLACK CAT #8
- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #4
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #2
- ❑ VENOM #255

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #24

- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #5
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #5
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #25
- ❑ DUNGEONS OF DOOM #3
- ❑ KNULL #3
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #2

THIS MONTH'S HOST

Currently working in the VENOM-VERSE, along with STAR WARS and DAREDEVIL.

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Call me sentimental, but I'd say it's everyday people who stand up to do the right thing even when it's tough. We're seeing a lot of that these days—bring it on.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

Kingpin! The guy's a hard worker, never quits, and always gets results. My spirit animal!

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Shave your head, work out until you have a physique like a Sherman tank, and buy a bunch of white suits.

NAME: Charles Soule

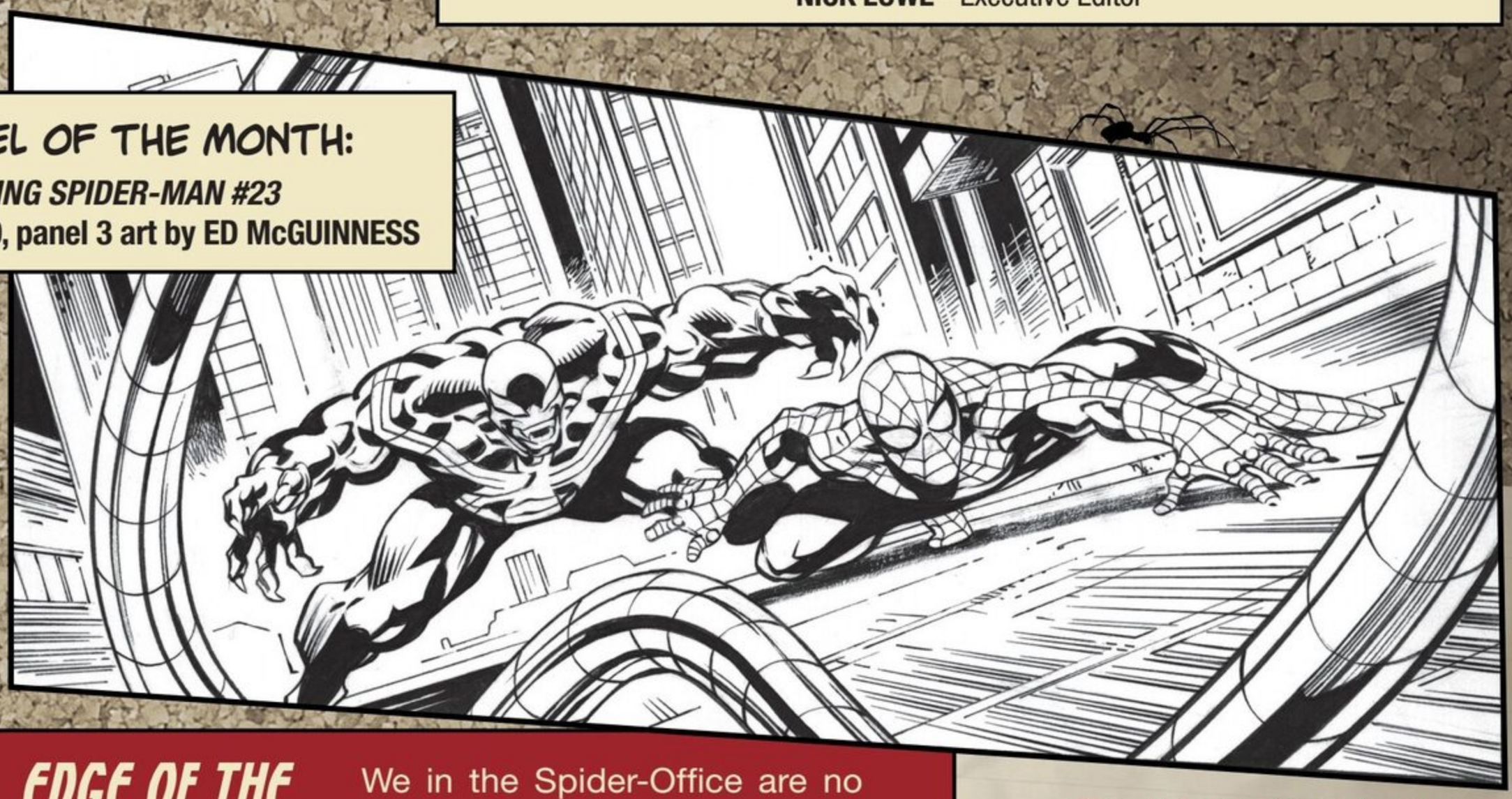
TITLE: Writer! Dreamweaver! Story Sculptor!

WORKS ON:
How much time do you have?

EMERALD BENSADOUN, **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT** & **KAEDEN McGAHEY** - Assistant Editors
MARTIN BIRO & **TOM GRONEMAN** - Associate Editors **JORDAN D. WHITE** - Senior Editor
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

PANEL OF THE MONTH:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23
page 9, panel 3 art by ED McGUINNESS



EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants—we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant covers of the month.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL
Connecting Variant Covers by IBAN COELLO

GAMMA CORNER

HULK VERSUS THE ONE ABOVE ALL

"Surely you can't mean—"

We do.

The Infernal Hulk, the baddest Hulk there's ever been, takes on the ultimate creator. Who will win? Well, we've got another Hulk issue coming out next month, so...place your bets.

INFERNAL HULK #5
On sale 3/18

NEXT

VENOM

#255

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